

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS**

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Anne Blackwood,

Plaintiff,

v.

Praxis Financial Solutions, Inc. ; and  
DOES 1-10, inclusive,

Defendants.

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**COMPLAINT**

For this Complaint, the Plaintiff, Anne Blackwood, by undersigned counsel, states as follows:

**JURISDICTION**

1. This action arises out of Defendants' repeated violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692, et seq. ("FDCPA"), and the invasions of Plaintiff's personal privacy by the Defendants and its agents in their illegal efforts to collect a consumer debt.

2. Supplemental jurisdiction exists pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367.

3. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b), in that the Defendants transact business in this District and a substantial portion of the acts giving rise to this action occurred in this District.

### **PARTIES**

4. The Plaintiff, Anne Blackwood (“Plaintiff”), is an adult individual residing in South Hadley, Massachusetts, and is a “consumer” as the term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3).

5. Defendant Praxis Financial Solutions, Inc. (“Praxis”), is an Illinois business entity with an address of 7301 N. Lincoln Avenue, Suite #110, Lincolnwood, Illinois 60712, operating as a collection agency, and is a “debt collector” as the term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).

6. Does 1-10 (the “Collectors”) are individual collectors employed by Praxis and whose identities are currently unknown to the Plaintiff. One or more of the Collectors may be joined as parties once their identities are disclosed through discovery.

7. Praxis at all times acted by and through one or more of the Collectors.

### **ALLEGATIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL COUNTS**

#### **A. The Debt**

8. The Plaintiff incurred a financial obligation (the “Debt”) to Triad Financial (the “Creditor”).

9. The Debt arose from services provided by the Creditor which were primarily for family, personal or household purposes and which meets the definition of a “debt” under 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(5).

10. The Debt was purchased, assigned or transferred to Praxis for collection, or Praxis was employed by the Creditor to collect the Debt.

11. The Defendants attempted to collect the Debt and, as such, engaged in “communications” as defined in 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(2).

**B. Praxis Engages in Harassment and Abusive Tactics**

12. Within the last year, Praxis contacted Plaintiff in an attempt to collect the Debt.

13. An individual collector of Praxis requested that Plaintiff issue a post-dated check for March 1, 2012.

14. The collector used rude and condescending language when speaking with Plaintiff. When Plaintiff informed Praxis that she did not have any money to pay the debt off, the collector stated: "You haven't had money in four years."

15. The collector called Plaintiff a "careless person" and said that Plaintiff did not care about her "credit being trashed".

16. The collector added that Plaintiff was "holding a gun to my [collector's] head" after Plaintiff stated that her only income was Social Security Disability and that she had no means to pay the Debt.

**C. Plaintiff Suffered Actual Damages**

17. The Plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer actual damages as a result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct.

18. As a direct consequence of the Defendants' acts, practices and conduct, the Plaintiff suffered and continues to suffer from humiliation, anger, anxiety, emotional distress, fear, frustration and embarrassment.

**COUNT I**  
**VIOLATIONS OF THE FDCPA 15 U.S.C. § 1692, et seq.**

19. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.

20. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692d in that Defendants engaged in behavior the natural consequence of which was to harass, oppress, or abuse the Plaintiff in connection with the collection of a debt.

21. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692d(5) in that Defendants caused a phone to ring repeatedly and engaged the Plaintiff in telephone conversations, with the intent to annoy and harass.

22. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(10) in that Defendants employed false and deceptive means to collect a debt.

23. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692f(2) in that Defendants attempted to solicit a post-dated check by more than five days, without three business days written notice of intent to deposit.

24. The foregoing acts and omissions of the Defendants constitute numerous and multiple violations of the FDCPA, including every one of the above-cited provisions.

25. The Plaintiff is entitled to damages as a result of Defendants' violations.

**COUNT II**  
**INVASION OF PRIVACY BY INTRUSION UPON SECLUSION**

26. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.

27. The Restatement of Torts, Second, § 652(b) defines intrusion upon seclusion as, "One who intentionally intrudes...upon the solitude or seclusion of another, or his private affairs or concerns, is subject to liability to the other for invasion of privacy, if the intrusion would be highly offensive to a reasonable person."

28. Massachusetts further recognizes the Plaintiff's right to be free from invasions of privacy, thus Defendant violated Massachusetts state law.

29. The Defendant intentionally intruded upon Plaintiff's right to privacy by continually harassing the Plaintiff with telephone calls.

30. The conduct of the Defendant in engaging in the illegal collection activities resulted in multiple invasions of privacy in such a way as would be considered highly offensive to a reasonable person.

31. As a result of the intrusions and invasions, the Plaintiff is entitled to actual damages in an amount to be determined at trial from Defendant.

32. All acts of Defendant and its agents were committed with malice, intent, wantonness, and recklessness, and as such, Defendant is subject to punitive damages.

#### **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

**WHEREFORE**, the Plaintiff prays that judgment be entered against Defendants:

1. Actual damages pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(1) against Defendants;
2. Statutory damages of \$1,000.00 pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1692k(a)(2)(A) against Defendants;
3. Costs of litigation and reasonable attorney's fees pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(3) against Defendants;
4. Actual damages from Defendants for the all damages including emotional distress suffered as a result of the intentional, reckless, and/or negligent FDCPA violations and intentional, reckless, and/or negligent invasions of privacy in an amount to be determined at trial for the Plaintiff;
5. Punitive damages; and
6. Such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

**TRIAL BY JURY DEMANDED ON ALL COUNTS**

Dated: February 13, 2012

Respectfully submitted,

By /s/ Sergei Lemberg

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